coal, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended in 1993 for private participation in coal mining to the industries engaged in generation of power, washing of coal obtained from a mine or such other end use as the Central Government may, by notification, specify. Industries engaged in production of Iron and Steel were already eligible under the Act for captive coalmining. Production of Cement was added in this category in 1996. Considering the coal blocks allocated so far under the provision, 49 coal blocks stand allocated to various companies in the public and private sectors as on date.

**Promoting coal sector in Madhya Pradesh**

110. SHRI RK. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote the coal sector in Madhya Pradesh with the help of State Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) Government is promoting coal sector in the whole of the country including Madhya Pradesh. Coal India Ltd. with its subsidiary companies under the administrative control of the Central Government, and Singareni Collieries Company Limited a joint venture company of Central Government and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, are the major coal producing agencies in the country. The companies both in private and public sectors engaged in manufacturing of Iron and Steel, generation of power and manufacturing of cement have also come forward in this connection for captive coal mining. The Central Government has also initiated a revised coal mining policy allowing State Government Undertakings to mine coal for commercial use.

**Import of defective navigation equipment by O.F., Medak**

111. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that Ordnance Factory, Medak imported navigation equipments;

(b) if so, the details and cost thereof;

(c) whether C and AG Wide his report No. 6 of 2003 has observed that these equipments were defective and were not verified and tested during the period of warranty;